

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the application, although claims 7-9, 14, 15, 22, and 24-26 have been withdrawn from consideration.

As a result of the Amendment filed August 22, 2002, claims 1-6, 10-12, 19-21, 23, and (16-18)/(1, 5, 10) are allowed.

Claims 13, 16/13, 17/13, and 18/13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by previously-cited Kitahara (JP 11277745). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection as set forth below.

Applicant submits that Kitahara fails to teach or suggest all of the limitations of independent claim 13, as amended herein. In particular, the reference does not disclose a piezoelectric vibrator unit in which a length of at least one of the internal electrode layers, located away from the surface fixed to the fixing member, is shorter than other internal electrode layers that are located between the at least one internal electrode layer and the first surface and that have the same polarity as that of the at least one internal electrode layer. Kitahara is silent regarding these features of claim 13.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 13 is not anticipated by Kitahara.

Also, claims 16/13, 17/13, and 18/13 are allowable over Kitahara, at least because of their dependence from claim 13.

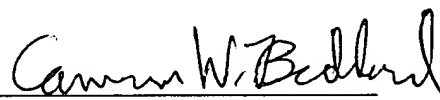
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPENDIX
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

13. (Twice Amended) A piezoelectric vibrator unit comprising:
- at least one piezoelectric vibrator including:
- common internal electrode layers and segment internal electrode layers arranged alternately;
- piezoelectric layers, each interposed between adjacent pair of the common and segment internal electrode layers; and
- external electrodes formed on an exterior of the piezoelectric vibrator and electrically connected respectively to the common internal electrode layers and the segment internal electrode layers; and
- a fixing member to which a first surface of the piezoelectric vibrator is fixed;
- wherein the piezoelectric vibrator is displaceable in a direction perpendicular to a lamination direction in which the internal electrode layers and piezoelectric layers are laminated;
- wherein a length of at least one of the internal electrode layers, located away from the surface fixed to the fixing member, is shorter than other internal electrode layers that are located between the at least one internal electrode layer and the first surface and that have the same polarity as that of the at least one internal electrode layer.